Honorable James Courter
Hember, United States
House of Representatives
1 Morris Street
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

LITED !

Dear Mr. Courter:

Thank you for your letter of July 6, 1983 on behalf of your constituent Ellen Giannini concerning the Asbestos Dump Site ("the site") in Millington, New Jersey.

The site is an inactive asbestos dump, located adjacent to the Passaic River, which has been covered with soil and vegetation. Because of heavy spring rains, portions of that cover eroded thereby exposing small quantities of asbestos. However, the cover has been restabilized and a mixture of mulch/fertilizer seed has been applied to induce vegetation. This will prevent asbestos fibers from entering the Passaic River or being released into the air. Asbestos does not constitute a threat to groundwater.

It should be noted that the above action is only an initial response to the problem and that further studies will be undertaken to determine an appropriate long-term solution. The NJDEP's "Four Year Plan for Bazardous Waste Site Cleanups in New Jersey" has tentatively scheduled the initiation of remedial action for early 1988. However, the Environmental Protection Agency anticipates that a Remedial Investigation/Peasibility Study (RI/FS) will begin early in fiscal year 1984 (which commences on October 1, 1983 An RI/FS will follow to determine the extent of contamination and identify possible remediation alternatives. Negotiations with responsible parties regarding further remedial action will begin following the completion of the RI/FS, which typically takes about 9 months.

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Thank you for your interest in protecting our environment.
Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline B. Schafer Regional Administrator

cc: Commissioner Robert E. Hughey
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection

bec: Virginia Williams (A-101)
Office of Congressional Correspondence

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